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DETAILED ACTION

The following Office Action is a response to communications filed on September 3, 2009. Currently, claims 1, 2, 7-10, 29, 32, 34, and 35 are pending and have been allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art teach de-trending to reduce the error of a predicted value as claimed by Applicant, by "computing an actual mean of actual values for the specified time interval; computing an actual standard deviation of actual values for the specified time interval; and computing an output result by multiplying the standardized score calculated in the trending logic by the actual standard deviation to produce a product, and adding the actual mean to the product." This is expanded on by Applicant's persuasive arguments filed on March 19, 2009, which are deemed to be persuasive and adequately reflect examiner's opinion as to why the claims are allowable over the art of record.

The closest prior art is Hunter (U.S. 2004/0064357), Kakouros (U.S. 2004/0088211), Dempster ("Maximum Likelihood from Incomplete Data via the EM Algorithm"), Joreskog ("Censored Variable and Censored Regression"), and Ramoni ("Robust Learning with Missing Data"). Hunter discloses forecasting consumer demand for new products on which there is no data available and applying a correction factor to that forecast, but does not teach de-trending as claimed by Applicant, namely "computing an actual mean of actual values for the specified time interval; computing an actual standard deviation of actual values for the specified time interval; and computing an output result by multiplying the standardized score calculated in the trending

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logic by the actual standard deviation to produce a product, and adding the actual mean to the product." Kakouros teaches generating forecasts over multiple periods according to a model, calculating the forecast error over each period, and adjusting the model to reduce the forecast error. However, Kakouros does not teach the claimed de-trending. Dempster, Joreskog, and Ramoni all disclose approximating calculations using incomplete data sets. However, none of these references discloses the claimed de-trending operation.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neil R. Kardos whose telephone number is (571) 270-3443. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Beth Boswell can be reached on (571) 272-6737. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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